

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE**

**DOCKET NO. 2021-349-E    ORDER NO. 2021-148-H**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler**

**DOCKET DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Joint Petition of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC to Request the Commission to Hold a Joint Hearing with the North Carolina Utilities Commission to Develop Carbon Plan**

**MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:**

**Petition to Intervene of Google, LLC**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER'S ACTION:**

**This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of Google, LLC in the Docket described above.**

**Under Commission regulation, the Commission must determine whether or not the petitioning party has clear factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires that parties filing a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the South Carolina Public Service Commission must set forth clearly and concisely:**

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**
- (c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

**Google states that it has a strong interest in the outcome of this proceeding. Google is also a multinational technology company, manufacturer, and industry-leading presence in smart and sustainable energy and related technologies. As a technology service provider, Google asserts that it is an industry-leader in providing expertise and cloud-based technologies that help companies, including power companies, achieve their efficiency, sustainability, and reliability goals. On the other hand, as an energy consumer, Google states that it is the world's largest annual purchaser of renewable energy and continuously innovates looking for opportunities to increase its sustainability. Particular to this proceeding, Google notes that it is an end-user of large quantities of Duke-provided energy. Google expects that it will continue to be a large user and purchaser of Duke-generated power, including renewable power, in the coming years.**

Google believes that it has a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of this proceeding and will be directly affected by the discussion and resolution of the issues Duke raises. Google has or will have projects or initiatives that may be impacted by the decisions the Commission makes both during and following its review of Duke's request. Any outcomes of this proceeding or related proceedings will likely impact, either expanding or limiting, deployment of Google products and services in South Carolina. Google notes that its unique interest in this proceeding cannot be adequately represented or protected by any other party.

Pursuant to these facts, this Chief Hearing Officer holds that Google, LLC has successfully satisfied the three criteria for intervention stated in the Commission Regulation in this docket. Google's interest in this matter can clearly be discerned, as can the grounds for the intervention, and its position. The Petition is timely, and there are no objections to the intervention. Accordingly, the Petition to Intervene of Google, LLC is hereby granted in this Docket. This ends the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.